

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-18, 21 and 24-27 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 10, 11 and 21 are independent.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 11 and 21 have been amended. No new matter is involved. Basis for the amendments to claims 1, 10, 11 and 212 is found in Applicant's Application, as originally filed including, for example Fig. 5 of the drawings and the explanation of Fig. 5 found on page 6, lines 22-25.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 7-9, 11, 16-18, 21, 24, 25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,011,602 to Miyashita. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 11 and 21 recite an auxiliary light source for a reflective liquid crystal device, and claim 11 recites a reflective liquid crystal device, whereas Miyashita discloses an auxiliary light source for a transmissive liquid crystal device. This is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art, who appreciates the fact that Miyashita employs a diffusing plate in all of its embodiments to increase brightness of its light source, as noted in the last full paragraph on page 2 of Applicant's originally filed disclosure.

If Miyashita's diffusing plate were used with a reflective type liquid crystal display device, it would degrade images displayed on Miyashita's liquid crystal display device.

Secondly, the claimed invention recites a combination of features, wherein a ratio of the height to width of the convex portions is substantially about 1 to 2. Miyashita does not contain such a disclosure. In fact, Miyashita teaches away from this feature in that Miyashita indicates that the optimum height to width ratio if its projections is 1:1, as set forth, for example in col. 4, lines 34-39; and col. 15, lines 12-16.

Accordingly, claims 1-2, 7-9, 11, 16-18, 21, 24, 25 and 27 are not anticipated by Miyashita.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita in view of EP 08878720 to Funamoto et al. (“Funamoto”). Claims 5 and 15 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita in view of EP 08878720 to Funamoto. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Miyashita, the base reference used in this rejection, contains the same shortcomings with respect to claim 10 that it does with respect to claims 1, 11 and 21, as explained above. Moreover Funamoto is not applied to remedy those shortcomings.

Accordingly, even if, solely for sake of argument, one of ordinary skilled in the art were properly motivated to modify Miyashita in view of Funamoto, as suggested, the so-modified version of Miyashita would still not disclose, suggest, or otherwise render obvious the claimed invention.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claim 10 are respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of claims 5 and 15, Applicant initially notes that claims 6 and 15 recite the circular cross-section feature and, thus, will address this rejection as being made with respect to claims 6 and 15.

Miyashita, the base reference used in this rejection, contains the same shortcomings with respect to claims 6 and 15 that it does with respect to claims 1 and 11, from which claims 6 and 15, respectively, depend, as explained above. Moreover Funamoto is not applied to remedy those shortcomings.

Accordingly, even if, solely for sake of argument, one of ordinary skilled in the art were properly motivated to modify Miyashita in view of Funamoto, as suggested, the so-modified version of Miyashita would still not disclose, suggest, or otherwise render obvious the claimed invention.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection of claims 6 and 15 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

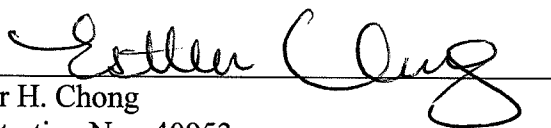
In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: May 23, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

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